Chapter 14

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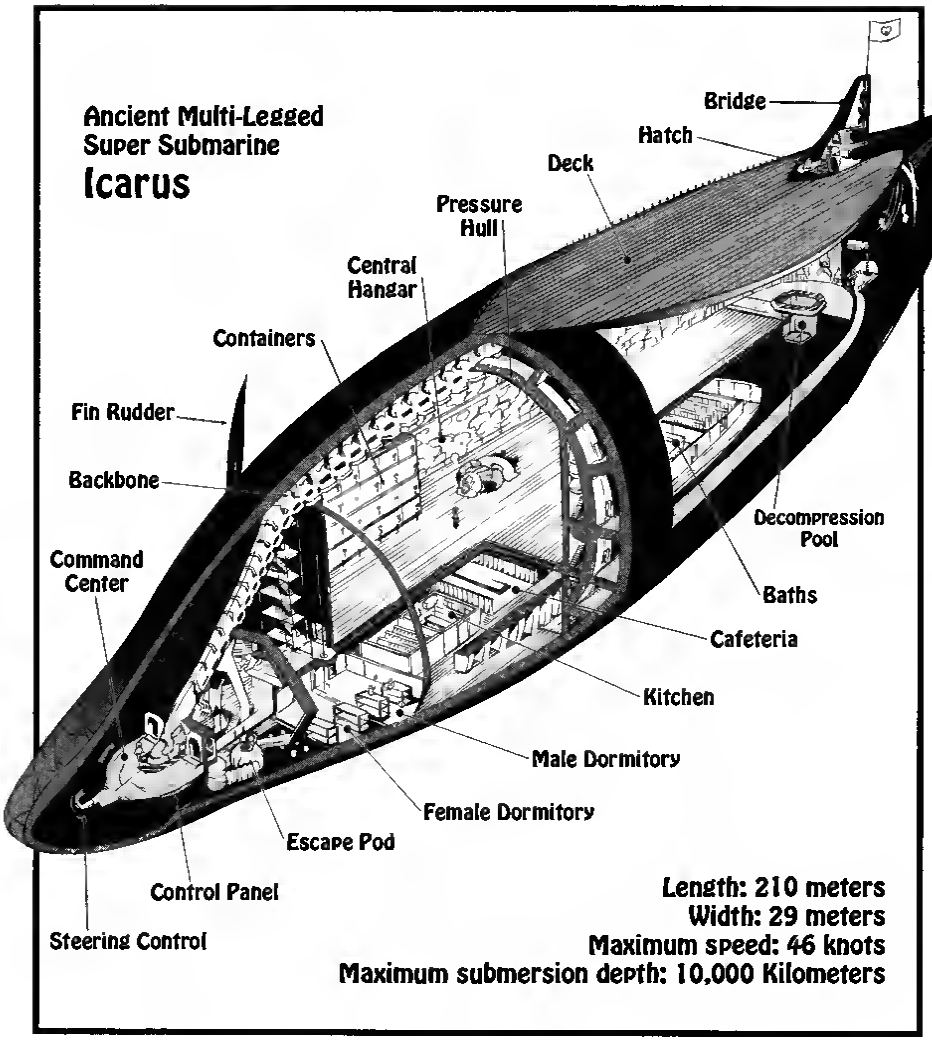
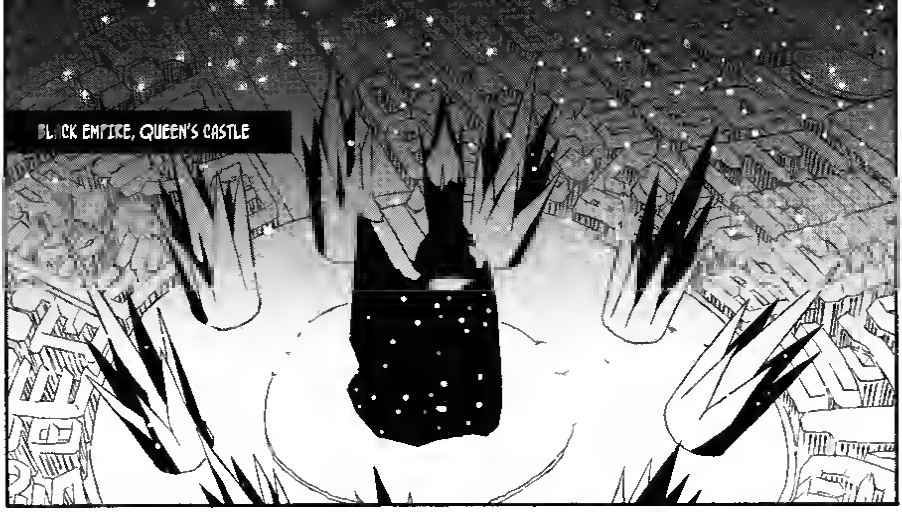
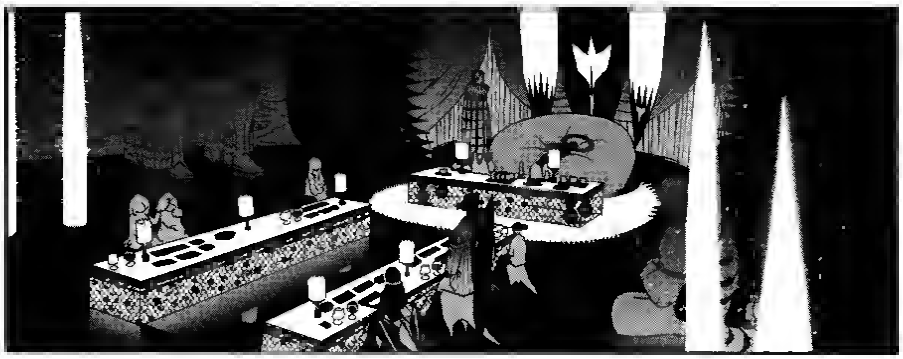
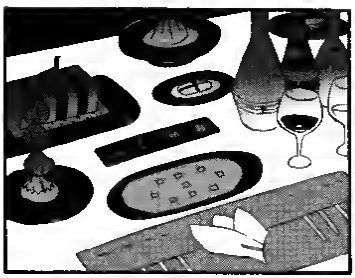
14

Swift Shoemaker

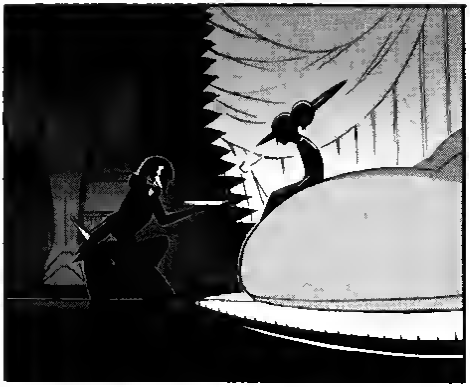



BL. CK EMPIRE, QUEEN'S CASTLE

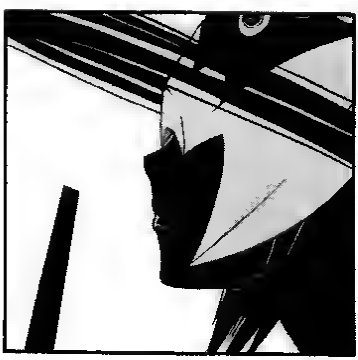




COOR-
DINATES?
EMPRESS,
A SHOOTING
STAR HAS BEEN
ATTACKED
.....
PI
BUT...
BRING ME
CHOCOLATE
EMPRESS...
SHE
DOESN'T
EVEN TAKE
THE TIME
TO EAT.

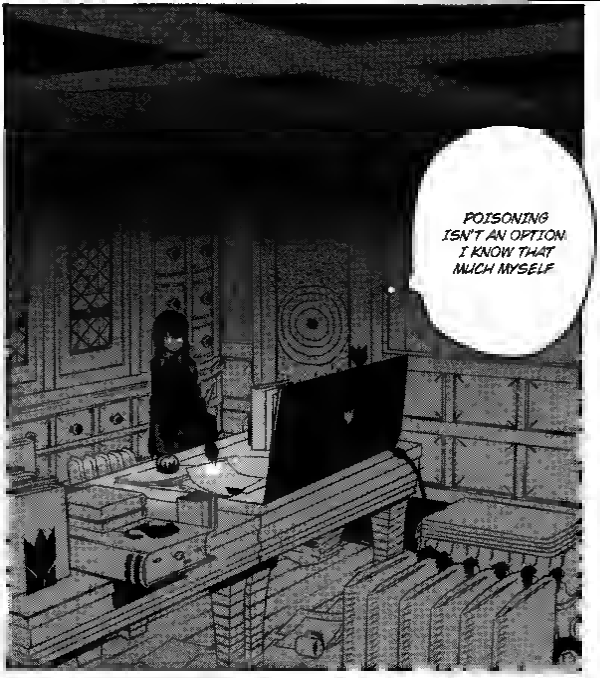


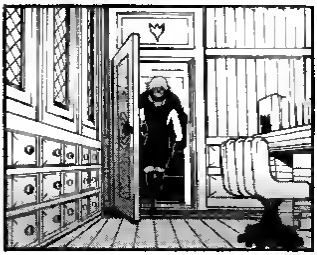
…?



BITE

BUT WITHOUT REST, SHE'S GETTING WEAKER

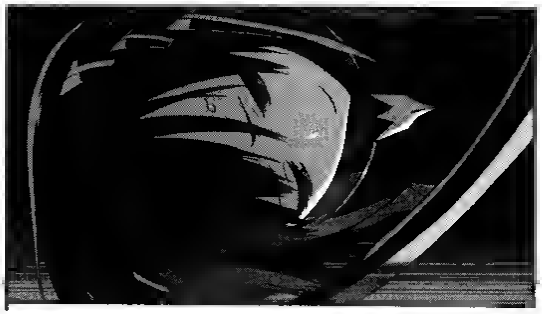

POISONING ISN'T AN OPTION. I KNOW THAT MUCH MYSELF

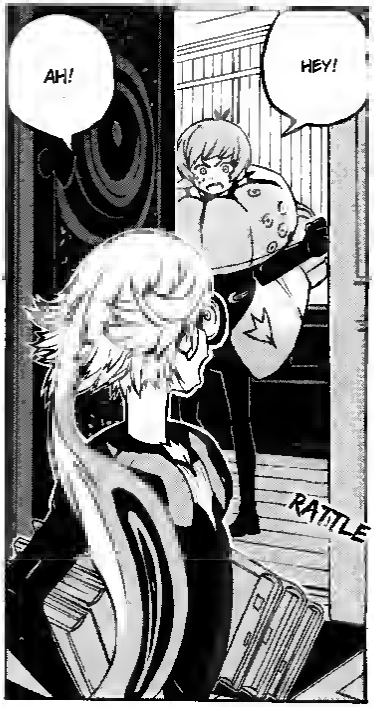


!?

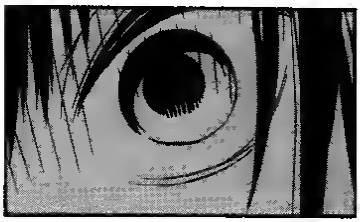
TAILSTAR③

HM? I SENSE THE PRESENCE OF A BEAUTY..




AH!
HEY!
RATTLE

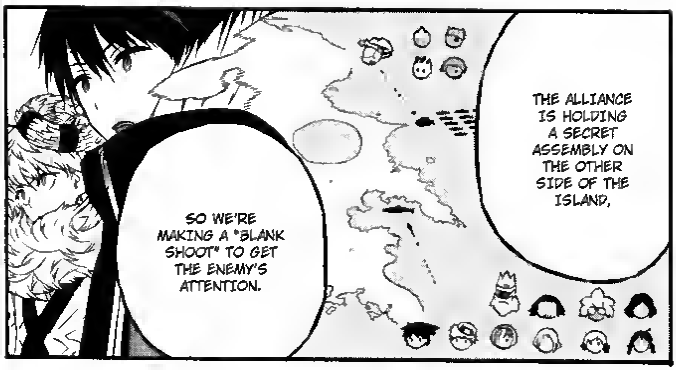
I'VE GOTTEN USED TO THAT...
CLACK

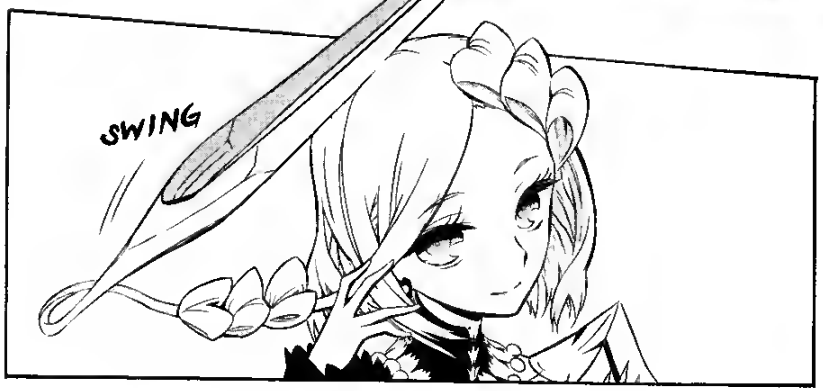


MENACING
THE QUEEN'S POWER...

NICE AND SLOW.

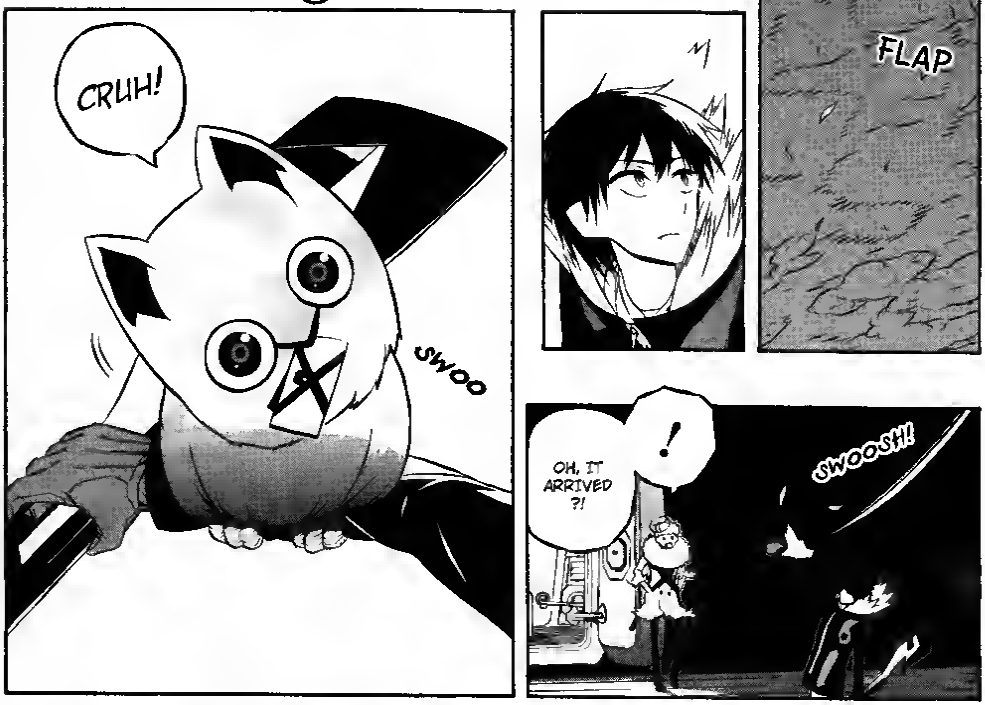
THEY FOUND US FASTER THAN I THOUGHT.

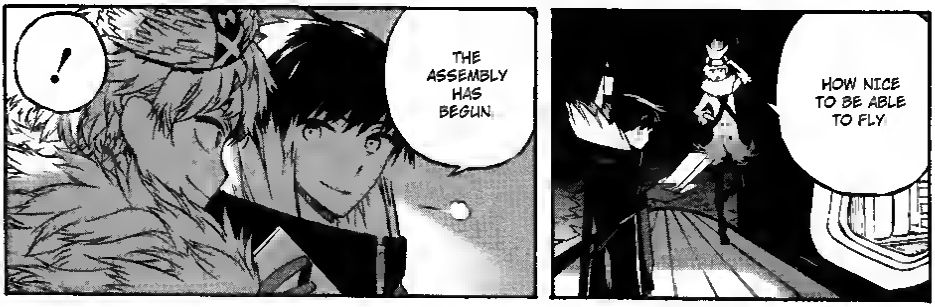

SO WE'RE MAKING A "BLANK SHOOT" TO GET THE ENEMY'S ATTENTION.
THE ALLIANCE IS HOLDING A SECRET ASSEMBLY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ISLAND.


SWING

THE ELDER WON'T ALLOW IT.
MAYBE IT'S ABOUT TIME WE TOLD HER?
THAT SHE IS THE QUEEN.
.....
THE ELDER AGAIN..
I BELIEVE HER.
THE REASON WE SURVIVED ANNIHILATION ON THIS FROZEN STAR
WAS BECAUSE OF HER PROVISIONS.
STILL, WE'RE ALWAYS STARVING! THE PREPARATIONS WERE INSUFFICIENT!
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE MEMORIES FROM THE GLACIAL ERA IN THE CARTRIDGE STUCK IN HER HEAD.
EVEN THIS SUBMARINE IS AN ARTIFACT FROM ANCIENT TIMES.

TAILSTAR③


CRUH!
SWOO
FLAP
OH, IT ARRIVED ?!
!
SWOOSH!


!
THE ASSEMBLY HAS BEGUN.
HOW NICE TO BE ABLE TO FLY

……
FLAP

PAN!!
?
GUU-
AHZ! SANAGI Z!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GUU-

OH? REALLY...?
!
I... I THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT BE THE QUEEN...
GRAB
.....
SEEMS LIKE I WAS WRONG...

SO...
...
I MEAN... WHEN I USE THAT POWER, IT HURTS IN MY HEAD...
AND IT'S WEIRD THAT I CAN'T GROW UP...
SO IF THAT WAS THE CASE... I WANTED TO WAKE FROM THIS CURRENT STATE...
OR SO I THOUGHT...
.....
SO YOU WERE...?
Y'KNOW! I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT!
RUFFLE RUFFLE
DO YOU WANT TO BECOME THE QUEEN?

NO...
IT'S SCARY...
SANAGI!

!?
TWINKLE
A STAR!
CLANK
WHAT?!
IT'S COMING THIS WAY!
SHOOTING STAR ATTACK!!

EMERGENCY DIVE!
OK!
KAI!
!!
TWINKLE
GRAB
EVERYONE! GRAB ONTO SOMETHING!
!?

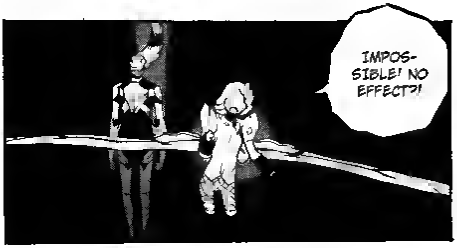
THAT WAS FAST...!!
BAM
COUGH
COUGH
HAH...
HUH..
MY BREATH...
AISHISU..

I-I CAN HANDLE IT!!
ICE?!
I CAN DEAL WITH A RUNDOWN SHIP LIKE THAT IN ONE BLOW!
FLING
PLICK

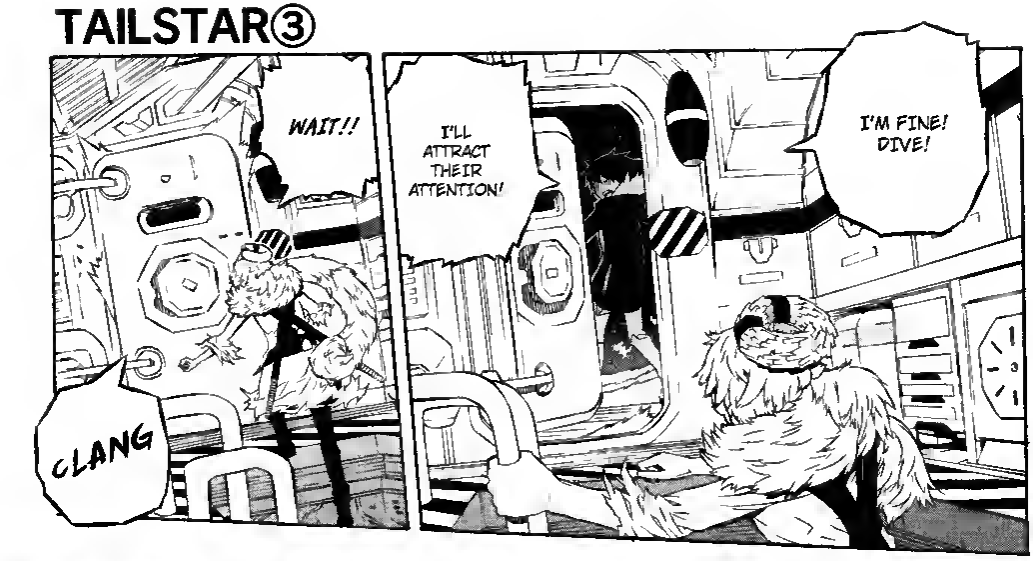
BAMBAMBAM

FWUSH

……

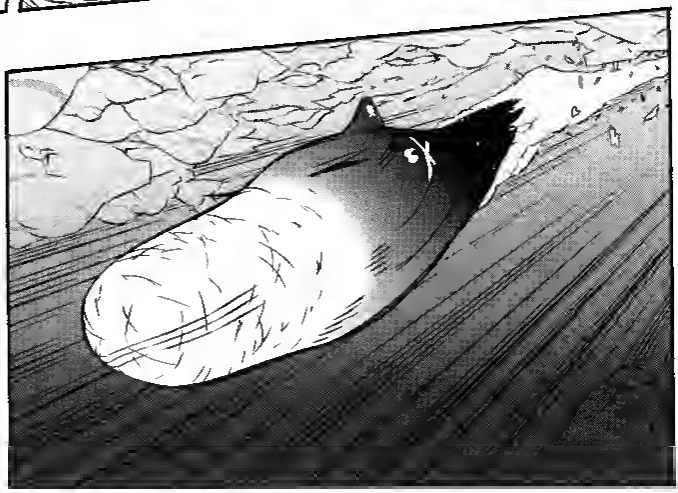

IMPOS-
SIBLE! NO
EFFECT?!

TAILSTAR③


WAIT!!
CLANG
I'LL ATTRACT THEIR ATTENTION!
I'M FINE! DIVE!

ARE YOU STUPID?! IT'S 2-ON-1!!
I'LL GET THERE SOMEHOW!
REUNITE WITH THE ALLIANCE'S FLEET!

SO THAT'S A SUBMARINE, HM.



FREEZE
GOT IT!
FREEZE THEM.
SPLASH
CRICKCRICKCRICK

FUCK!!
BAM
!
RATTLE
WHAT?!
COUGH
!

!!
I SEE A NICE TAIL YOU HAVE.
SHOE-
SHOEMACER-SAMA...
Ping!♪
WHOOSH

TAILSTAR③

STEP
FHOOWOOSH
ACCEL
STRENGTH
!!

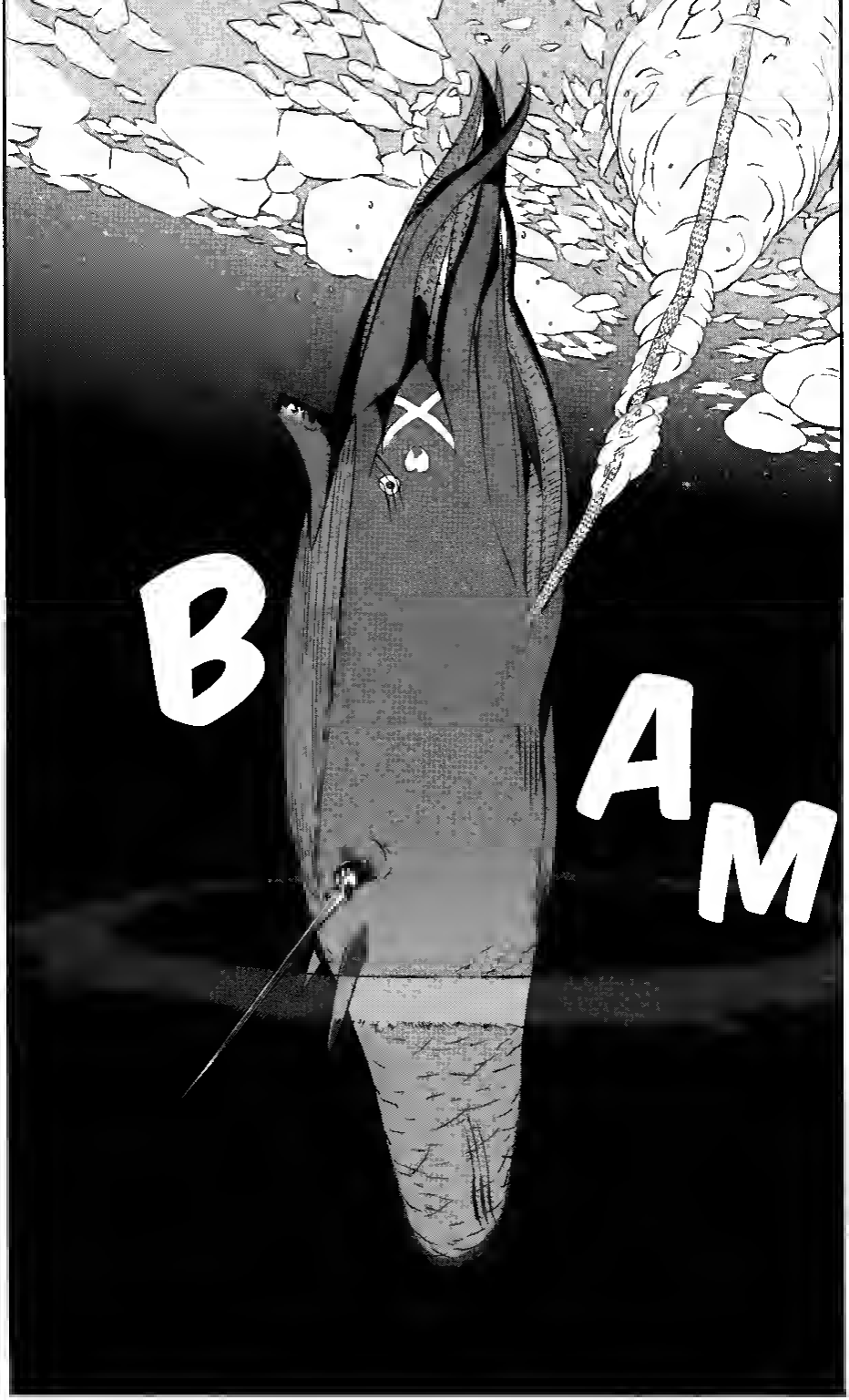
!!
SLASH
12 TIMES

PING
PICK
SLIDE
SANAGI?!
CRUMBLE
EMERGENCY DIVE!

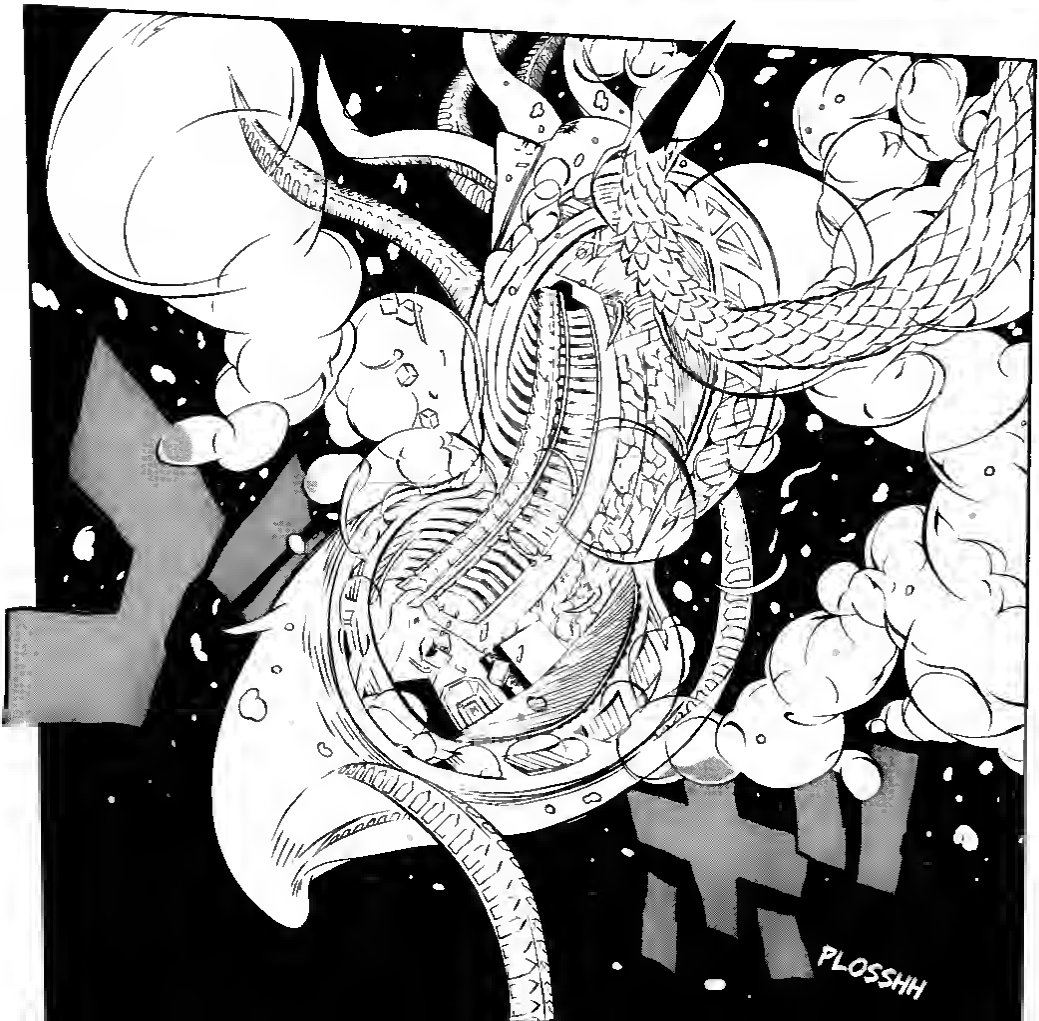
UAH!
SPLASH
DIVEEEEE
SANAGI HAS DEFEATED THE SHOOTING STAR! THE QUEEN'S RETRIBUTION IS COMING!! WE'RE GETTING AWAY!!!!
SANAGI.. HE'S TOO INTO IT..
.....

KKOOO
OOOMM

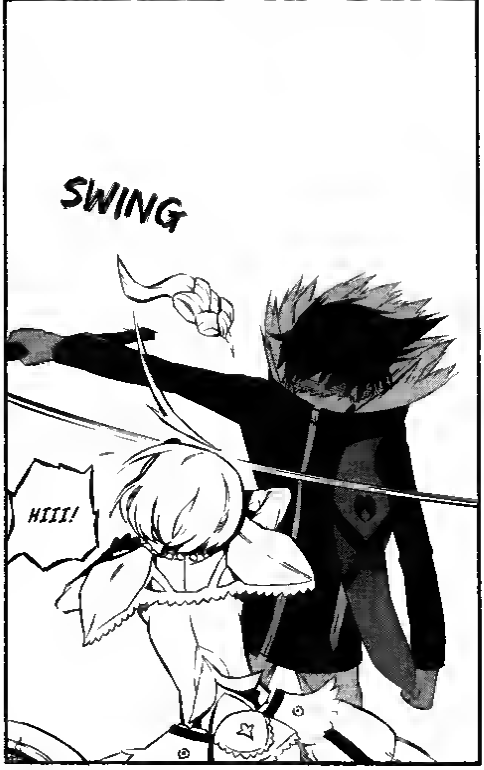
PEW
OOMMM

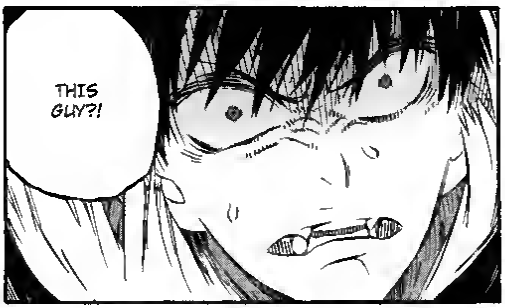

BAM

!?
THIS IS BAD!!
WHIRL
WHIRL
...
A TAIL?!
CRICK
WATER IS ..!!


GASP
COUGH!!
FWOOSH
WHIZZ
PLOSSHH

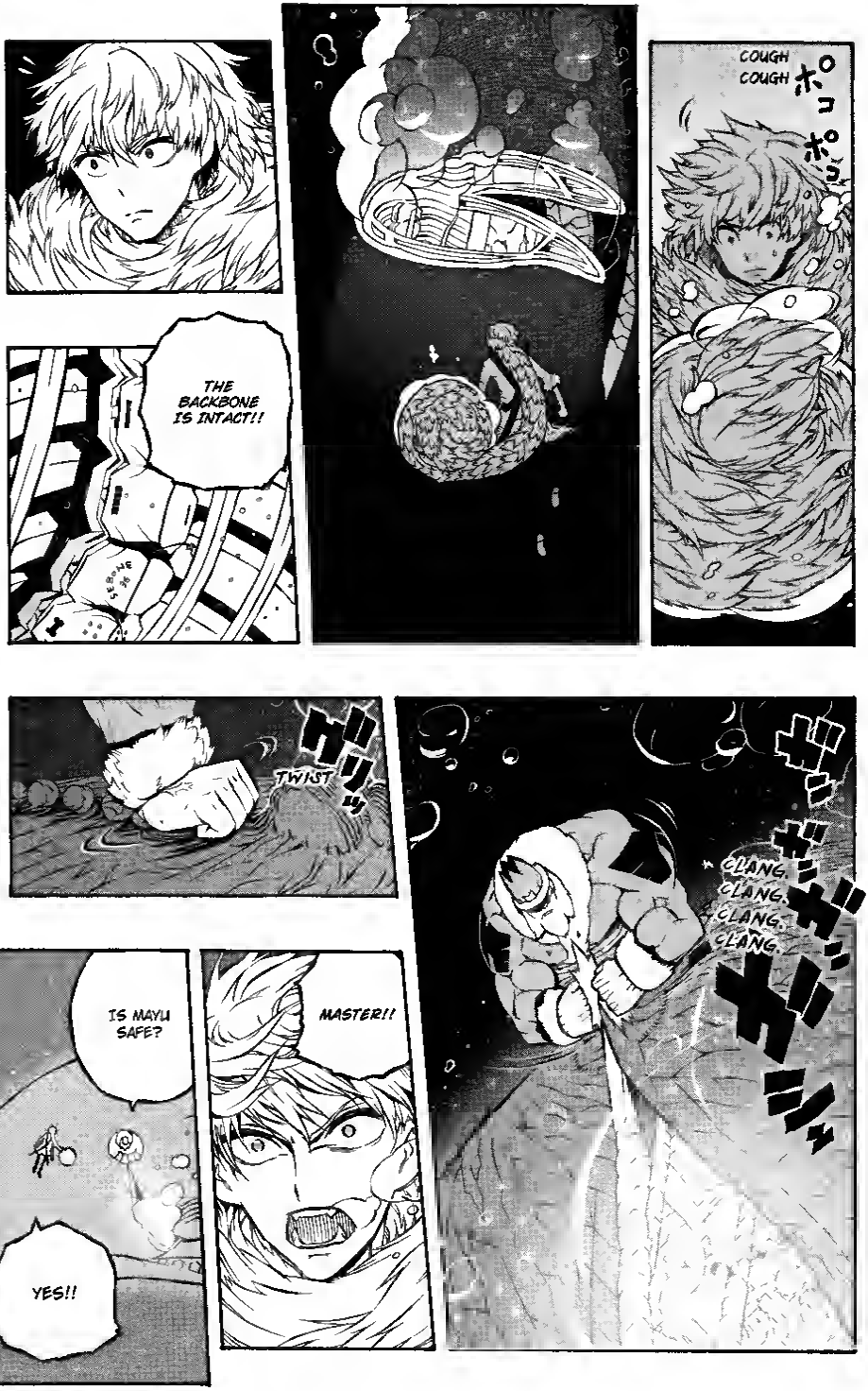
THUMP
SO THE BASE WAS AT THE FRONT.

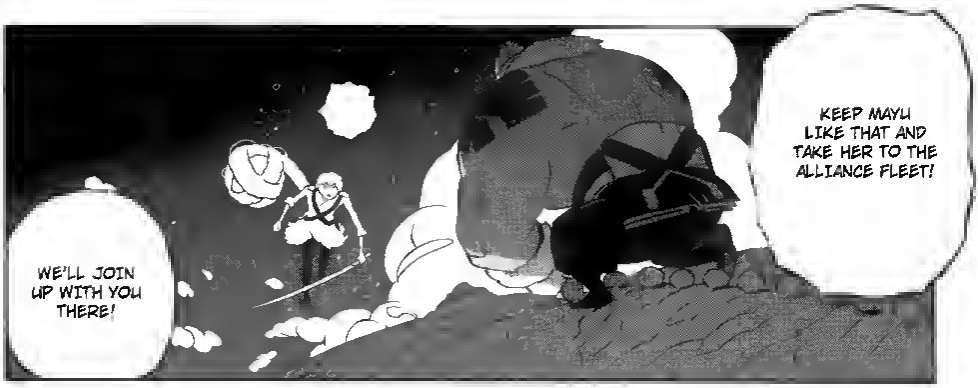

SWING
HIII!


THIS GUY?!

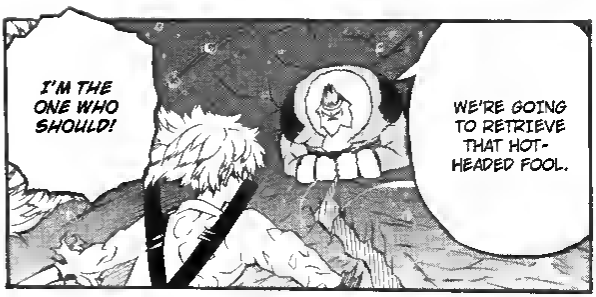
SHAKE

FLUSH
GRAB
RATTLE
BAM
FLOOSH
MAYU!!
CLASP


COUGH COUGH ポコポコ
THE BACKBONE IS INTACT!!
TWIST グリッ
CLANG. CLANG. CLANG. CLANG. ガンガンガンガンッ
MASTER!!
IS MAYU SAFE?
YES!!

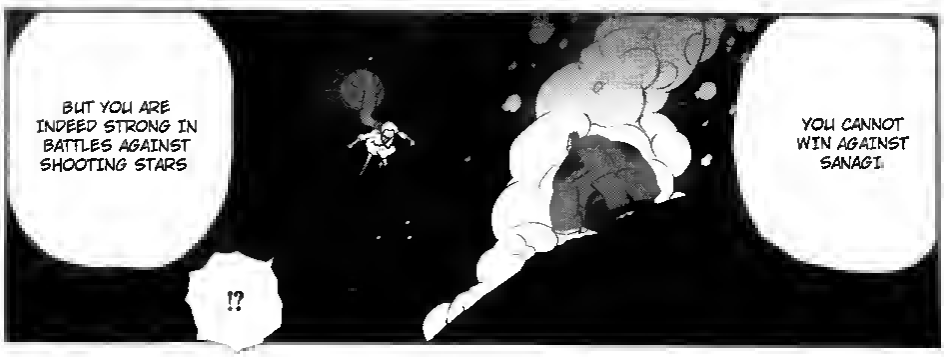

KEEP MAYU LIKE THAT AND TAKE HER TO THE ALLIANCE FLEET!
WE'LL JOIN UP WITH YOU THERE!

WE CANNOT STOP THE QUEEN'S POWER...

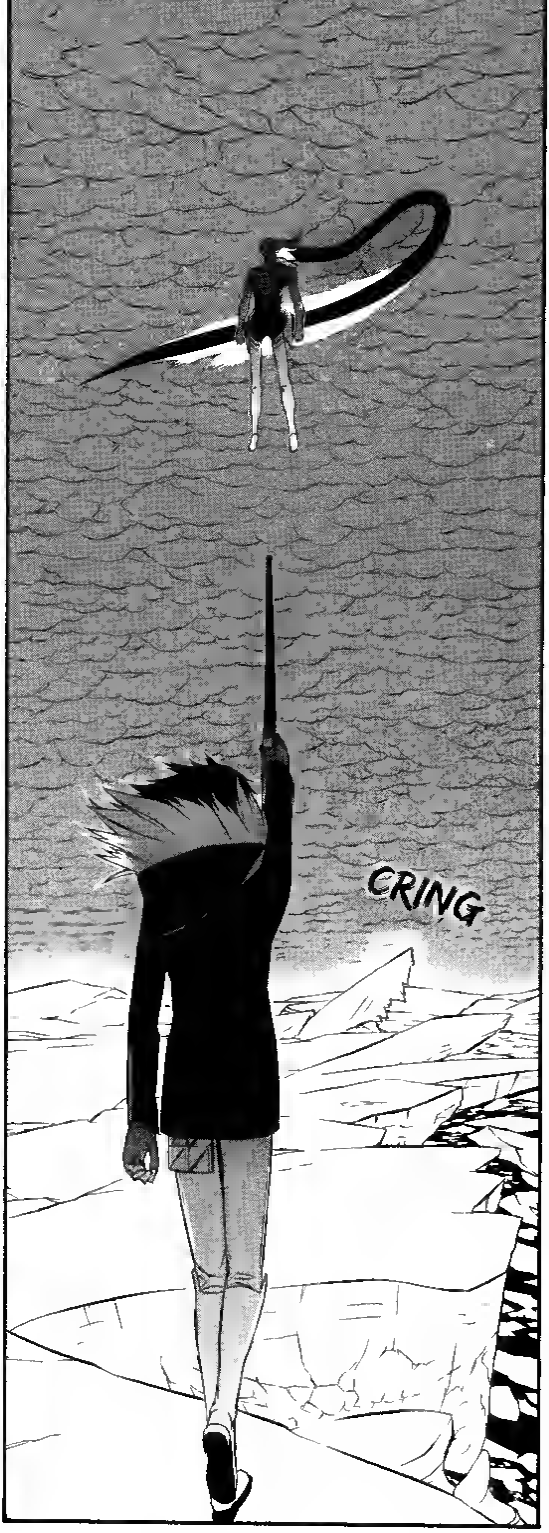

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD!
WE'RE GOING TO RETRIEVE THAT HOT-HEADED FOOL.

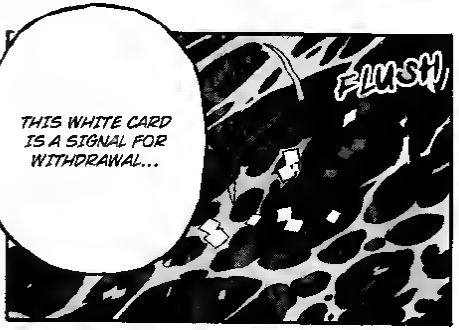
WHAT?!
O-OBVI-OUSLY I CAN!!

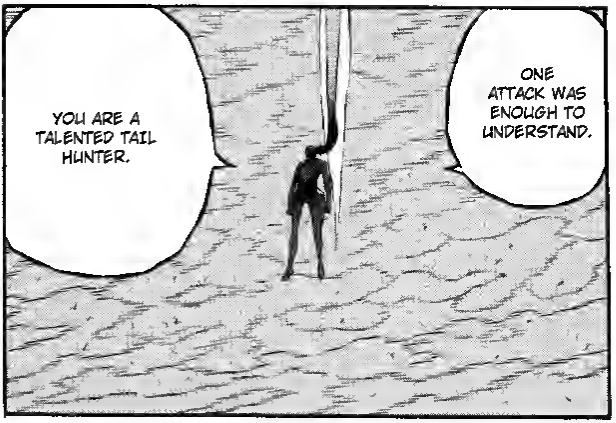
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP SANAGI BY YOURSELF?


BUT YOU ARE INDEED STRONG IN BATTLES AGAINST SHOOTING STARS
!?
YOU CANNOT WIN AGAINST SANAGI

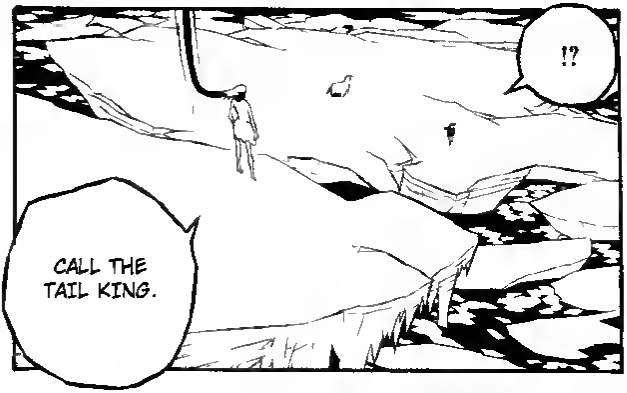
I-IT'S ME!!!
TORINOS, WHO'S THE ONE AND ONLY KID OF THE INVULNERABLE MUSCLE MOUNTAIN?
!!
FULFILL YOUR DUTY!!
GRAMPS...
BADHUMP


CRING


FLUSH!
THIS WHITE CARD IS A SIGNAL FOR WITHDRAWAL...

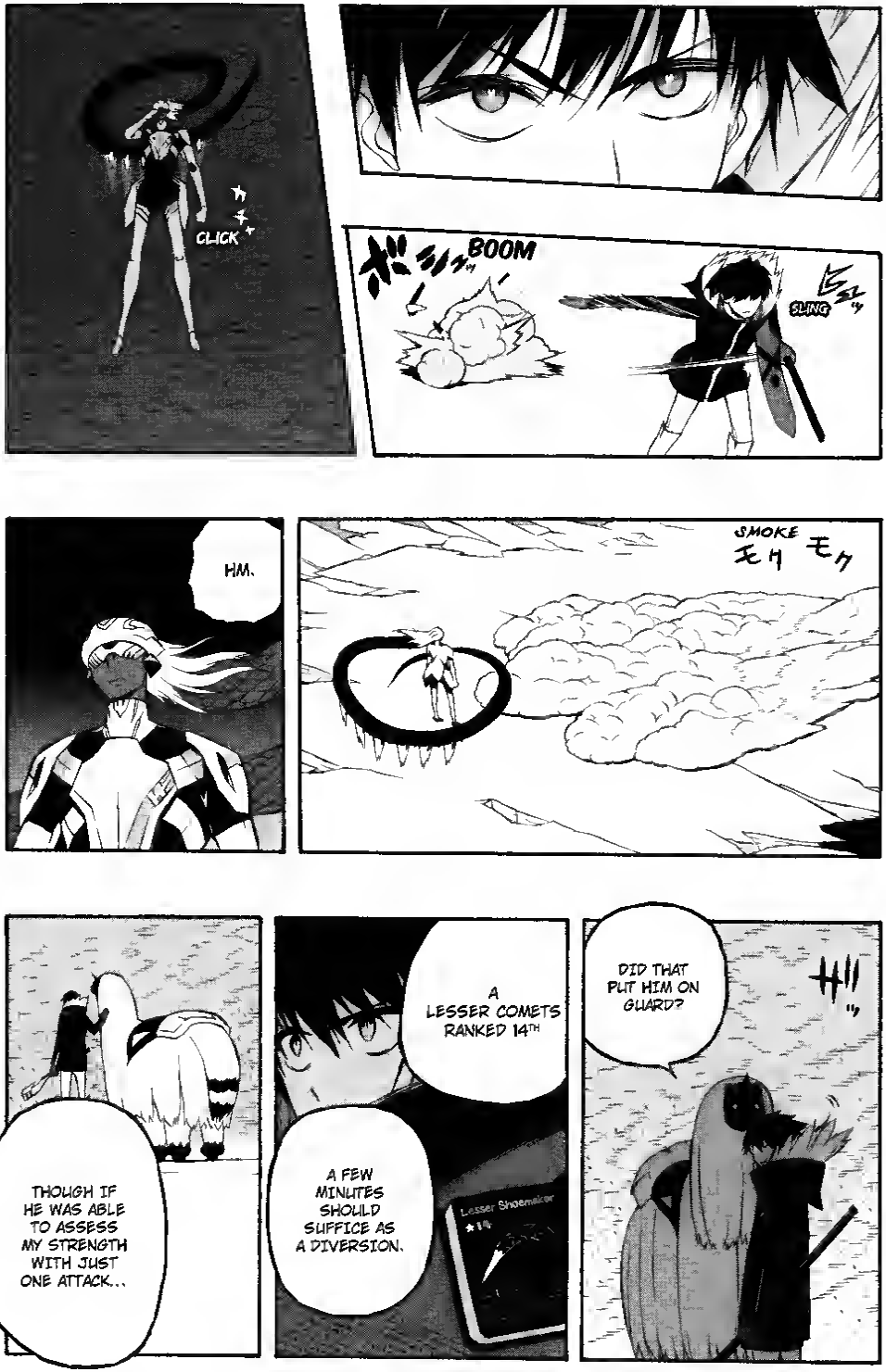

YOU ARE A TALENTED TAIL HUNTER.
ONE ATTACK WAS ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND.

AISHISU WAS UNLUCKY.
!!


!?
CALL THE TAIL KING.

I'LL LET YOU LIVE AS A TRAINING SAMPLE FOR THE EMPRESS.

MY MASTER IS INDEED THE TAIL KING.
I KNOW WHERE HE IS. COME DOWN.
CLICK
PLANNING TO KILL ME?


CLICK
BOOM
SLING
HM.
SMOKE
THOUGH IF HE WAS ABLE TO ASSESS MY STRENGTH WITH JUST ONE ATTACK...
A LESSER COMETS RANKED 14TH
A FEW MINUTES SHOULD SUFFICE AS A DIVERSION.
Lesser Shoemaker
DID THAT PUT HIM ON GUARD?

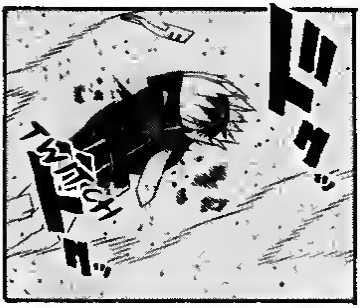
BUT HIS TAIL HAS REVERSED SCALES..
WHEN A SHOOTING STAR FLIES, IT EMITS SOUL AURA FROM THE REAR END TO ACCELERATE.
WITH THE RIGHT ATTACK, I CAN DO IT!!
GRAS...!!
CLING
FWOOSH
!!
FUCK...!!!

IT'S TOO FAST!!!
BAM

FASTER THAN SOUND.
THUD

JUMBLE

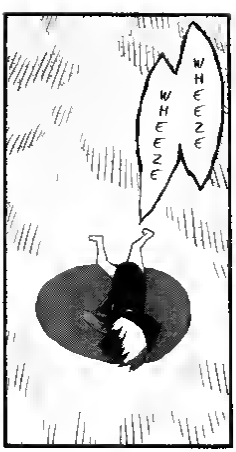
AS I THOUGHT, NEAR THE HOSE.


ドリグッ
TWITCH

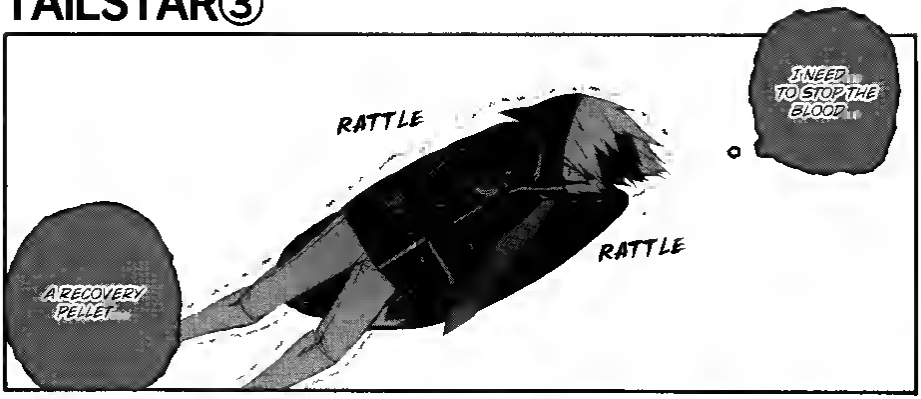
FWHIP

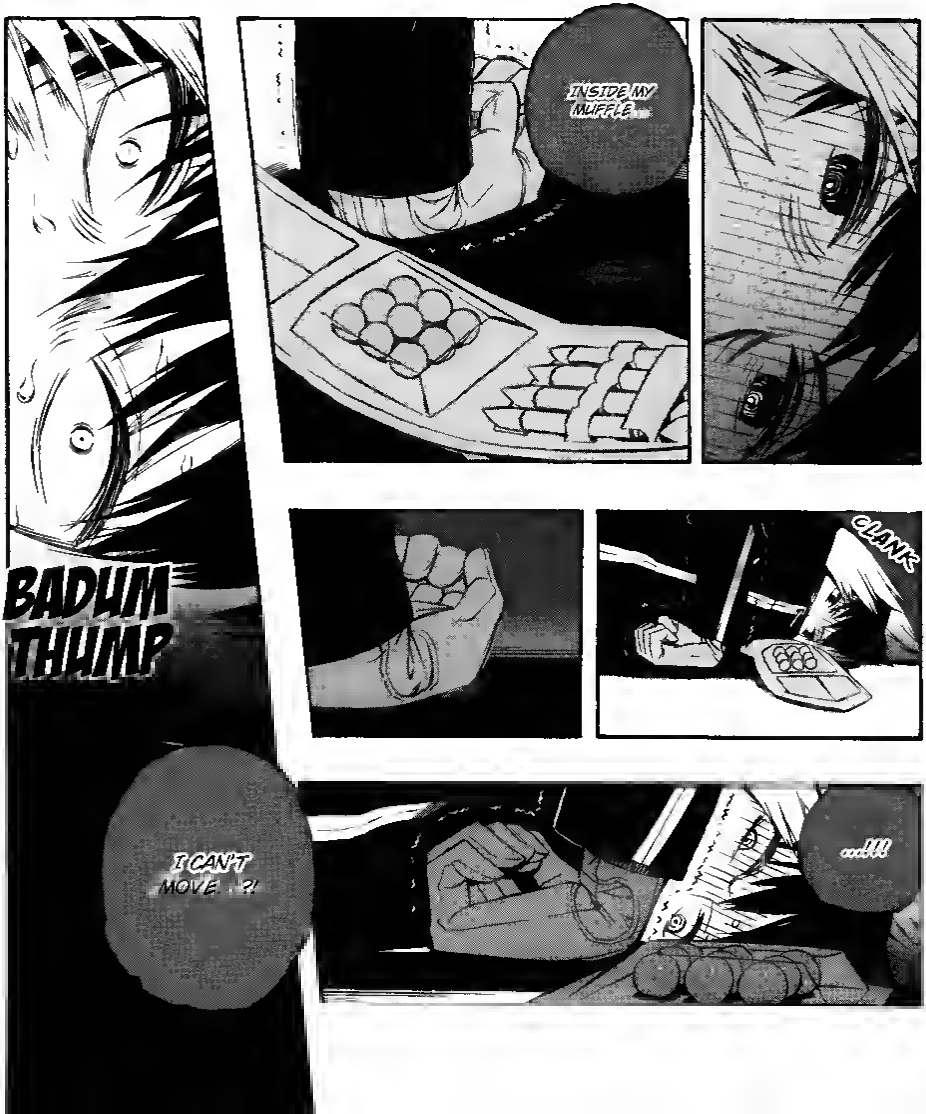
PLOC
PLOC

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RUFFLE

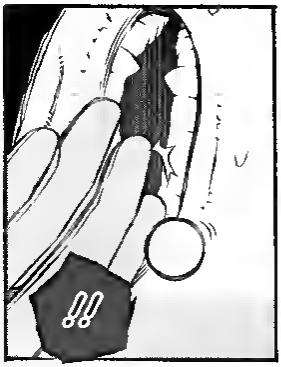

WHEEZE
WHEEZE

WHEEZE
IT HURTS...

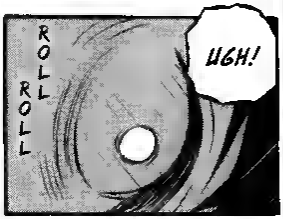

I NEED TO STOP THE BLOOD...
RATTLE
RATTLE
A RECOVERY PELLET...

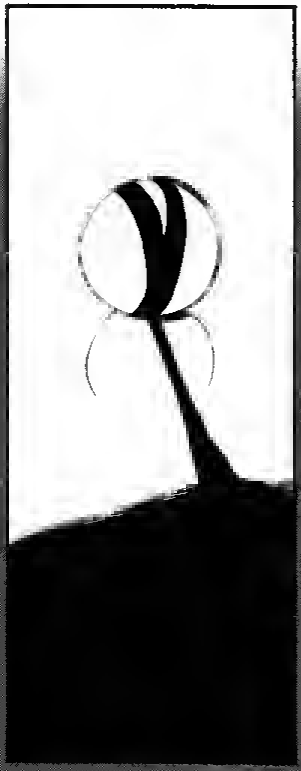

INSIDE MY MUFFLE...
BADUM
THUMP
CLANK
I CAN'T MOVE...?!
...!!!

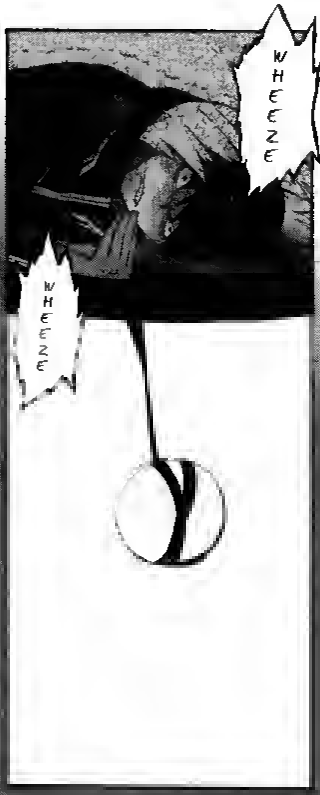
I CAN'T MOVEEE!!
GNNNNNAAAH!!
RATTLE
RUFFLE RUFFLE
RUFFLE


!!

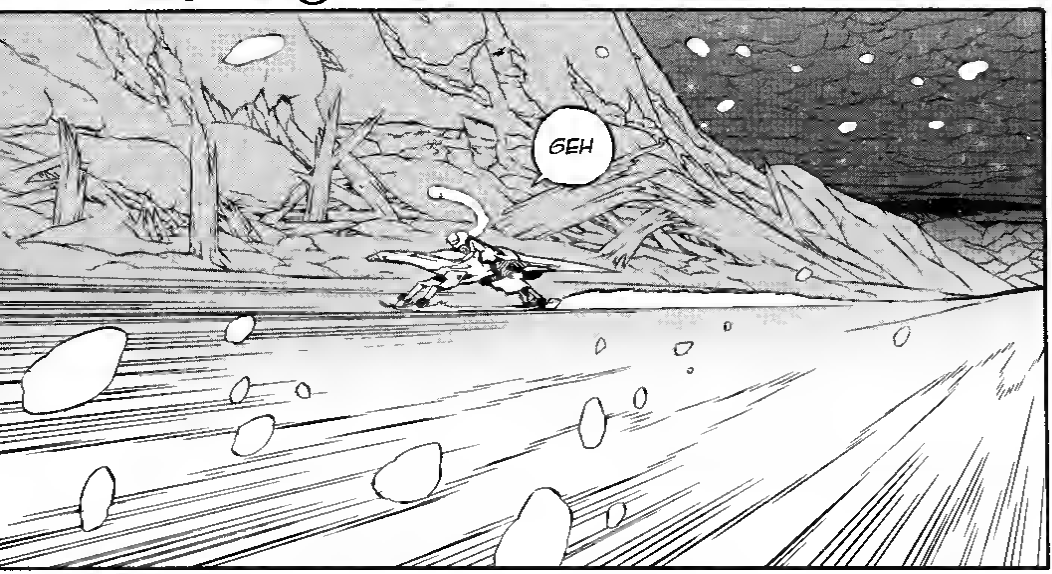
WHEEZE
WHEEZE


UGH!
ROLL
ROLL

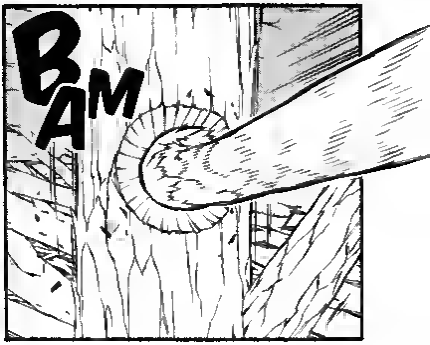



WHEEZE
WHEEZE

CLACK
WHEEZE
CATCH
IT...

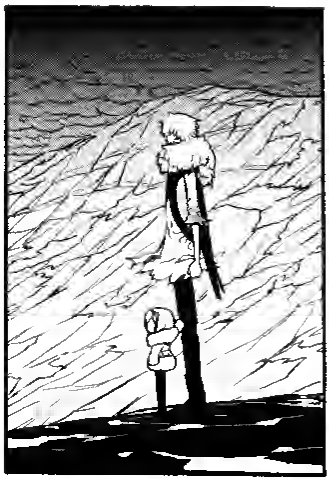

GEH

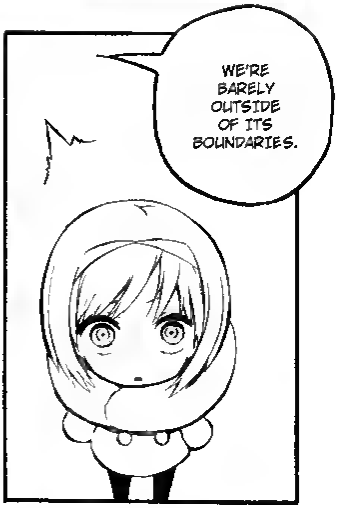
SANAGI WILL CATCH UP!
TORINOS?

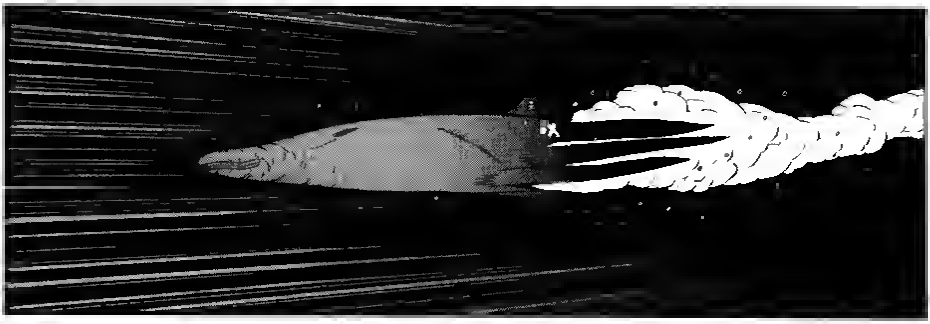

BAM

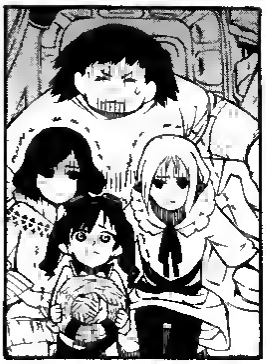
スライド
SLIDE

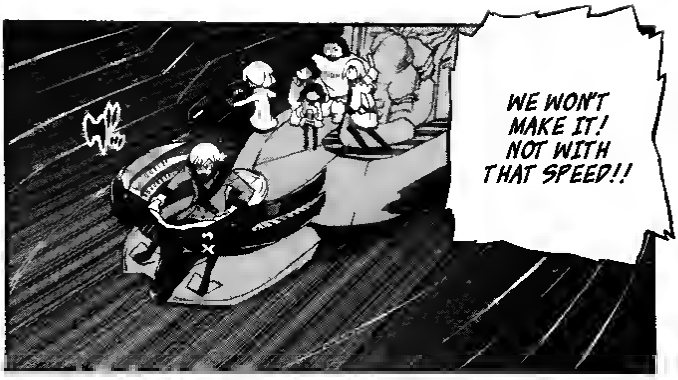
LOOKING AT THE BLACK STALKS WE'VE MANAGED TO ESCAPE...
THIS PLACE ISN'T YET WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE QUEEN'S POWER

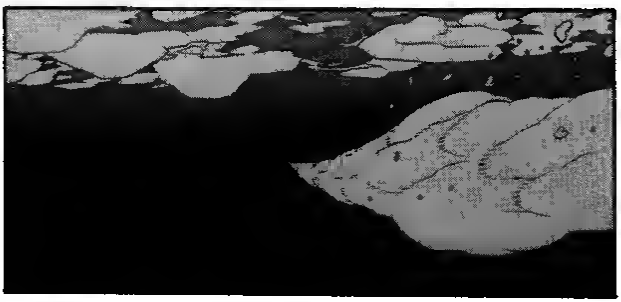



WE'RE BARELY OUTSIDE OF ITS BOUNDARIES.






WE WON'T MAKE IT! NOT WITH THAT SPEED!!



Black notebook

"The Queen's power" and "Blank shoot"
The Queen's power manipulates the magma underground to destroy the land. Truly a titanic power.
A special ability that no one besides the Queen can use. As of now, the new Alliance has no way of stopping this power. Using this power seems to be very tiring.

Blank shoot is the name of a battle plan. When a shooting star is attacked, the Queen uses her power as a reprisal. While it may be unnecessary destruction, it seems that the shooting stars love this display of protectiveness. In order to keep their trust, this reprisal is always enacted. A "Blank Shoot" is an attack that makes use of this fact. By targeting shooting stars at various locations in the world, the Queen is forced to use her power without respite, directly wearing her down.

As a reprisal, the Empress will always use "Magma Down." Used at full force and speed, this brings the appearance of black stalks in 15 minutes, and covers a radius of 100km^2 with a sea of magma. For humans who are unable to fly, they are effectively powerless against this attack. In order to assess the scope of this power, we lost many comrades... Along with the Tail King who proposed this strategy "Blank Shoot" is a hit-and-run tactic. It is possible to escape by using a ride or a submarine.

"Blank shoot" has been continually applied by various brigades across the land for 3 years. It is having an effect. Even the observation data from the Empire indicates a weakening. At first, we were expecting a limit to the number of times she could use this power, but it hasn't happened so far.

Peaceful application of the Queen's power
By using her power, the Queen can move mountains, create walls, and shape and design the landscape. She can create islands, regulate the flow of wind and water, and manipulate the environment. Inhospitable places like deserts can also be remolded. Right now... The whole surface is covered in ash and snow, but... Even the clouds are the result of volcanic smokestacks. When creating forests, the seeds designed by the tail Giacobini were useful.

There is a gigantic city constructed by linking black stalks. The refuge that Sanagi complained about and didn't use was there. When using black stalks to build, the Empress continually emits Soul Aura. So long as she keeps giving command, the magma is akin to an earthworm? It's just like a blood vessel with a hardened outer shell.

~Haku

Everath

Hmm maybe a bit grainy.
Guess I can check on that till next week.
Shoutout to kabuto, sorry for the wasted raws. but sharpness filters sux. ;c

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